translocation to safe areas or training them for domestic use, as may be appropriate;

(iv) Financial support by the Central Government to the State Governments on planned activity, proposed by the State Governments, to contain man-elephant conflict;

(v) Payment of ex-gratia relief, by Central Government, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000 per case of human death caused by wild elephants.

**Foreign Equity participation in Telecom Service**

2187. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the foreign equity participation in basic public telecom service operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indiciating the status in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information collected in July 1994 regarding foreign equity norms in different countries in telecom sector.

1. **INDONESIA**

Under the liberalised regulations announced by the Government of Indonesia on 2.6.94, foreign investment upto 95% is permissible in Telecom. The minimum equity holding for Indonesian partner which was earlier 20% was reduced to 5%.

2. **AUSTRALIA**

There are no restrictions on the foreign ownership for "Service Providers" in Telecom which can be owned upto 100% by foreign companies, "Service Providers" are entities which lease telecom capacity from Licensed carriers and provide full range of Telecom service including voice Services.

However, Australia has permitted two general carriers, one with 100% Government ownership and other with 51% Australian ownership. In addition, there are three Mobile carriers one with 100% Government ownership, 2nd with 51% Australian ownership and third with 100% foreign ownership. In the case of third Licensed company for mobile carrier, the 100% foreign ownership is required to be changed to majority Australian ownership within 10 years of grant of licence, i.e., by 2003.

3. **SRI LANKA**

Foreign investments in Telecom Sector upto 40% are approved on automatic basis and foreign investment above 40% are subject to case by case approval.

4. **MYANMAR**

Myanmar Foreign Investment Law does not allow foreign investment, including joint collaboration/joint ventures, in telecommunications sector, which remains a total monopoly of, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, a State-owned enterprise. However, multinational companies, such as Erricsson and Siemens, are awarded contracts for projects in the telecommunications sector in myanmar from time to time.

5. **GERMANY**

So far Telecom Sector has been a government monopoly, A new Law, effective from 1.1.95, providing for privatisation of Telecom has been passed. Under this Law, Government corporation 'Telecom' will offer 49% of its equity on the stock exchange from 1996 onwards retaining 51%. There will be no restrictions for participation by foreign companies in telecom services.

6. **FRANCE**

In France, regulatory framework of the French telecommunications industry is governed by their Law of December, 90. Under telecommunication network infrastructure, a company with more then

20% of the registered capital or voting rights held directly or indirectly by foreign nationals other than those belonging to European Community cannot be granted licences to participate in the domestic telecommunication sector in France. Similarly, telecommunication services pertaining to telephone services between fixed points and telex services have been reserved for the public telecommunication operator — France Telecom only.

7. SINGAPORE

In Singapore, foreign participation in basic telecom services is not permitted at present. In the Value Added Services, there is no foreign participation restriction and each case is considered on case by case basis.

8. VIETNAM

In the area of domestic telecommunication services in Vietnam, foreign equity participation is not permitted. Involvement of foreign companies in the form of contractual business cooperation without equity participation is allowed. For manufacture of telecommunication equipment equity participation of upto 99% (but in practice only upto 70%) is permitted.

**Drop in the Number of Sub-Urban Railway Passengers**

2188. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a drop in the sub-urban railway passenger kilometers as well as the number of sub-urban passengers;

(b) if so, what is the position for the last three years; and

(c) what is being done to improve this position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There is no decline in Suburban Passenger Kilometres and as well as in Suburban Passengers.

(b) Position for the last three years of Suburban Passenger traffic and Passenger kilometres is as under:—

(In millions)

| Year | Passenger Originating | Passenger Kilometres |
|---|---|---|
| 1992-93 | 2282 | 60448 |
| 1993-94 | 2302 | 63045 |
| 1994-95 | 2392 (Prov.) | 66202 (Prov.) |

(c) More booking windows have been opened. Additional Self Printing Ticket machines are being installed to enable speedy issue of tickets.

**Norms for Electrification of Railway Stations**

2189. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any norms for the railway stations in the country to be eligible for electrification;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether all railway stations in Maharashtra who fulfil the eligibility norms have been electrified;

(d) if so, the details of the stations so electrified and if not, which eligible stations have so far not been electrified with reasons therefore; and

(e) by when all the eligible railway stations in Maharashtra will be electrified;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The norms for electrification of railway stations have recently been revised and are as under:—